

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

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*****DELAWARE COUNTY PRESS CONFERENCE ADVISORY
FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006*****

**U.S. ATTORNEY PATRICK MEEHAN, CONGRESSMAN CURT WELDON,
AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY G. MICHAEL GREEN TO ANNOUNCE
UPPER DARBY'S OFFICIAL RECOGNITION AS A FEDERAL
"WEED AND SEED" SITE**

WHEN: 10:00 a.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006

WHERE: Council Chambers, Upper Darby Municipal Building, Room 202,
100 Garrett Road, Upper Darby, Pa.

WHO: U.S. Attorney Pat Meehan, U.S. Congressman Curt Weldon, Delaware County District
Attorney G. Michael Green, State Senator Edwin B. Erickson, State Representative Mario
Civera, Upper Darby Mayor F. Raymond Shay

WHAT: Designation as a federal "Weed and Seed" site allows for the allocation of federal funding
to build on the progress already made under the state program.

Weed and Seed, a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), is an innovative, comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.

Weed and Seed is foremost a strategy—rather than a grant program—that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. The more than 300 Weed and Seed sites nationwide range in size from several neighborhood blocks to several square miles, with populations ranging from 3,000 to 50,000.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach: law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers, and public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements.

At each site, the relevant U.S. Attorney's Office plays a leadership role in organizing local officials, community representatives, and other key stakeholders to form a steering committee. The U.S. Attorney's Office also facilitates coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts so that sites effectively use federal law enforcement partners in weeding strategies.